

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 AGR-20 AID-20 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02 TRSE-00

XMB-07 OPIC-12 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DRC-01

/178 W

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R 092034Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6777

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 1515

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, ETRD, XK, CS, HO

SUBJ: VISIT TO HONDURAS OF COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT

ELECT DANIEL ODUBER

SUMMARY: COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT ELECT DANIEL ODUBER QUIROZ ARRIVED IN HONDURAS APRIL 6 FOR A SHORT OFFICIAL VISIT AND CONVERSATIONS WITH CHIEF OF STATE GENERAL OSWALDO LOPEZ. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS DISCUSSION TOPICS INCLUDED THE CACM, THE HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR DISPUTE, AGRARIAN REFORM, BANANA EXPORT TAXES AND VENEZUELAN INVESTMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA. GENERAL LOPEZ USED THE OCCASION TO ANNOUNCE A MAY MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN CHIEFS OF STATE TO DEAL WITH THE HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR DISPUTE. END SUMMARY.

1. COSTA RICAN PRESIDENT ELECT DANIEL ODUBER QUIROZ ARRIVED IN HONDURAS APRIL 6 FOR A SHORT OFFICIAL VISIT AND CONVERSATIONS WITH CHIEF OF STATE GENERAL OSWALDO LOPEZ. THE UNCLASSIFIED

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CONVERSATIONS, TAKING PLACE ON ROATAN ISLAND AND IN TEGUCIGALPA,

DEALT WITH SEVERAL GENERAL TOPICS. ACCORDING TO PRESS ACCOUNTS ODUBER EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE GOH DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND ITS AGRARIAN REFORM PROVISIONS WITH THE VIEW TOWARD ADAPTING APPROPRIATE PORTIONS FOR USE IN COSTA RICA. ODUBER ALSO SAID HE PLANNED TO DISCUSS THE CACM, VENEZUELAN INVESTMENT IN CENTRAL AMERICA, THE HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR DISPUTE AS WELL AS THE FORMATION OF A UNION OF COFFEE PRODUCING COUNTRIES WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF RAISING COFFEE PRICES.

2. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE INTRANSIGENCE OF STANDARD FRUIT IN RELATION TO THE NEW ONE DOLLAR PER BOX BANANA TAX ODUBER REPORTEDLY REPLIED THAT ONE MUST HAVE PATIENCE AND THAT HE THOUGHT THAT THE GOVERNMENTS COULD WORK WITH THE BANANA COMPANIES. HE ADDED, THOUGH, THAT SINCE THE MOVE WAS A SURPRISE TO THE BANANA COMPANIES THAT THE GOVERNMENTS COULD FACE ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL PROBLEMS. HE EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE TAX WOULD BE A SUCCESS BECAUSE OF THE STRONG DETERMINATION EXISTING TO MAKE IT WORK.

3. SPEAKING OF INTEGRATION HE SAID THAT ALL THE INSTITUTIONS INVOLVED ARE IN CRISIS BECAUSE NOTHING IS WORKING AS IT SHOULD. ALTHOUGH THE HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE IS WORKING DILIGENTLY, THE SITUATION STILL REQUIRES A GREAT COOPERATIVE EFFORT TO BE RESOLVED.

4. LOPEZ USED THE OCCASION TO ANNOUNCE THAT A MEETING OF CENTRAL AMERICAN CHIEFS OF STATE WOULD BE HELD IN MAY TO DEAL WITH THE HONDURAS/EL SALVADOR QUESTION. THE SITE WOULD BE GUATEMALA, NICARAGUA OR COSTA RICA. ODUBER ADDED THAT HE WOULD GO TO EL SALVADOR THE WEEK FOLLOWING THE HONDURAS MEETING IN ORDER TO BECOME BETTER INFORMED ABOUT THE GOES POSITION IN THE DISPUTE.

5. ODUBER WAS ACCOMPANIED BY:

GOCR FONMIN GONZALO FACIO; VICE PRESIDENT ELECT CARLOS CASTILLO, MINECON DESIGNATE JORGE SANCHEZ; GOCR REP TO HIGH LEVEL COMMITTEE, RODOLFO SOLANO, GOCR REP TO CENTRAL AMERICAN BANK FOR ECONOMIC INTEGRATION, ALEJO AGUILAR; AND MIN PUBLIC SAFETY DESIGNATE MARIO CHARPENTIER.
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SANCHEZ

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